

**REMARKS**

The objections to the disclosure and claims have been addressed.

The rejection of Claim 1 [sic, 5] under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is deemed overcome by the foregoing amendments to Claim 5 wherein antecedent basis issues have been addressed. Reconsideration is therefore requested.

The rejection of Claims 5-9 as being anticipated by Bruce under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 now makes clear that the one-piece bearing bridge is arranged between the wheel set and central opening in the axle differential. In addition to the fact that a housing such as is designated by numeral 26 in the Bruce patent is clearly not a one-piece bearing bridge or a common bearing unit, that housing is also not arranged between the wheel set and a central opening in the axle differential.

Applicants have provided a one-piece common bearing unit, not a housing, that minimizes the space occupied by a transmission by accommodating gear shift axles and gearshift lever shaft(s), something neither taught nor achieved by the housing used on the Bruce transmission.

Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

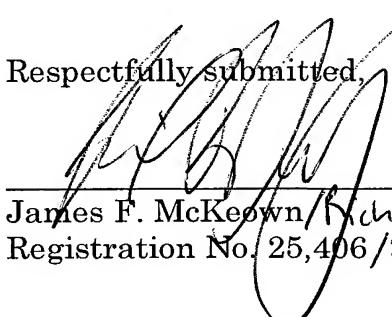
Serial No. 10/517,823  
Amendment and Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
Attorney Docket No. 028987.55370US

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.55370US).

Respectfully submitted,

November 7, 2006

  
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